

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 CPR-01

SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-02 PRS-01 /048 W

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O R 161445Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9270

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

UNCLAS JIDDA 6706

E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (SAQQAF, SAYYID OMAR) SA

SUBJ: SAUDI APPRECIATION FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE AFTER DEATH
OF OMAR SAQQAF

REF : (A) STATE 252065; (B) JIDDA 6677 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: REMAINS OF MINISTER OF STATE SAYYID OMAR SAQQAF
ARRIVED JIDDA BY USAF JET NOVEMBER 16. MOREN THAN 200
SENIOR SAUDI AND FOREIGN OFFICIALS WERE IN ATTENDANCE
AT THE AIRPORT; 5 MEMBERS OF ROYAL FAMILY WERE PRESENT,
HEADED BY MINISTER OF INTERIOR PRINCE FAHD BIN ABD AL-
AZIZ, AND GOVERNOR OF MECCA PRINCE FAWAZ BIN ABD AL-AZIZ.
PRINCE FAHD EXPRESSED DEEP APPRECIATION FOR HMG FOR ALL
U.S. HAD DONE ON THIS SAD OCCASION. SAUDIS AT ALL LEVELS
HAVE COMMENTED THAT THE PROMPT AND UNSTINTING NATURE OF
THE U.S. RESPONSE TO SAYYID OMAR'S DEATH SHOWS THAT
BOTH THE USG AND SECRETARY KISSINGER REGARDED HIM AS
A GOOD FRIEND. END SUMMARY.

1. USAF JET FRO PRESIDENTIAL FLEET BEARING REMAINS OF
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MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OMAR SAQQAF ARRIVED
JIDDA AIRPORT 0800 LOCAL NOVEMBER 16. REMAINS WERE ACCOMP-

ANIED BY SAUDI DELEGATION TO UNGA AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NEAR EASTERN AND SOUTH ASIAN AFFAIRS, ROY ATHERTON.

2. THEY WERE MET UPON ARRIVAL BY MORE THAN 200 SAUDI AND FOREIGN OFFICIALS, AND FRIENDS OF THE SAQQAF FAMILY. MINITER OF INTERIOR PRINCE FAHD BIN ABD AL-AZIZ WAS THE SENIOR MEMBER OF THE ROYAL FAMILY PRESENT. AMONG THE OTHER ROYAL PRINCES WERE DEPTUY MINISTER OF DEFENSE PRINCE TURKI BIN ABD AL-AZIZ, GOVERNOR OF MECCA PRINCE FAWAZ BIN ABD AL-AZIZ, PLUS TWO OF THE KING'S SONS, PRINCE TURKI BIN FAISAL AND PRINCE ABDULLAH BIN FAISAL. MINISTER OF PETROLEUM YAMANI, ROYAL INTELLIGENCE ADVISOR KAMAL ADHAM, CHIEF OF ROYAL PROTOCOL AHMAD ABDUL WAHHAB, AND NUMEROUS OTHER SAUDI DIGNITARIES WERE PRESENT, AS WELL AS VIRTUALLY ALL THE DIPLOMATIC CHIEFS OF MISSION. THE U.S. EMBASSY WAS REPRESENTED BY AMBASSADOR AKINS, DCM HORN, ECONOMIC COUNSELOR BIRD, SPECIAL ASSISTANT SABBAGH, POLICICAL CHIEF MURPHY, AND DEFENSE ATTANCE COL. TALLEY.

3. THE BODY OF SAYYID OMAR WAS IMMEDIATELY TAKEN TO HIS HOUSE IN JIDDA FOR BURIAL PREPARATIONS, AND AFTER 45 MINUTES RETURNED TO THE AIRPORT WHERE TWO SAUDI 737'S WERE STANDING BY TO FLY IT TO MEDINA FOR BURIAL THE SAME DAY. THE REMAINS WERE ACCOMPANIED BY SAYYID OMAR'S WIFE AND BROTHER, PLUS THE TUNISIAN DEAN OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, AND MANY SAUDI OFFICIALS.

4. THE ASSISTANCE THE U.S. GOVERNMENT PROVIDED IN PUTTING AN AIRCRAFT AT THE SAUDI DELEGATION'S DISPOSAL AND IN ASSIGNING A SENIOR DEPARTMENT OF STATE FIGURE AS OFFICIAL ESCORT EVOKUEE HA Y SAQPT
ABLE ITHHE TS S
TH
SAUDIS. PRINCE F
AHD EXPRESSED TO MR. ATHERTON HIS SINCERE
AND REPEATED THANKS FOR THE THROUGHFULNESS OF THE USG ON THIS SAD OCCASION(HE HAD THE AIR CREW HOUSED AS HIS PERSONAL GUESTS AT THE ROYAL GUEST PALACE). THE FOREIGN MIN-
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ISTRY ASSIGNED A VEHICLE AND ITS DEPUTY CHIEF OF PROTOCOL TO BE AT MR. ATHERTON'S SERVICE DURING HIS STAY IN JIDDA.

5. AFTER NUMEROUS SECRETARIAL VISITS TO SAUDI ARABIA, MOREOVER, AND THE PRESIDENTIAL VISIT IN JUNE, THE SIGHT OF THE U.S. EXECUTIVE JET IS WELL KNOWN--SAUDIS WERE IMPRESSED THAT THE USG HAD WITHOUT PREVIOUS NOTICE BEEN ABLE TO MAKE SUCH AN AIRCRAFT AVAILABLE. THE SAUDIS APPRECIATED ALSO THE MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE RECEIVED FROM PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER--WHICH WERE DELIVERED

TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ON NOVEMBER 15, AND HAVE BEEN
REPEATEDLY READ ON SAUDI RADIO AND TELEVISION NOVEMBER
16. THEY WILL CERTAINLY APPEAR IN THE PRESS NOVEMBER 17.

6. THE AMBASSADOR, MR. ATHERTON, AND MEMBERS OF THE
EMBASSY STAFF WILL EXPRESS THEIR CONDOLENCES TO MEMBERS
OF THE SAQQAF FAMILY THE EVENING OF NOVEMBER 16, AND TO
THE SAG OFFICIALLY ON NOVEMBER 17.

7. COMMENT: MANY PEOPLE REMARKED TO THE AMBASSADOR AND
TO OTHER EMBASSY OFFICERS THAT SAYYID OMAR WAS KNOWN TO
BE A FRIEND OF THE U.S. AND HAD DEVELOPED FEELINGS OF
ADMIRATION AND PERSONAL WARMTH TOWARD SECRETARY KISSINGER.
THEY SAID THAT THE SPEED AND NATURE OF THE U.S. RESPONSE
AT SAYYID OMAR'S DEATH SHOWED THAT THE USG RECOGNIZED
THIS, AND THAT SAYYID OMAR'S FEELINGS MUST HAVE BEEN
RECIPROCATED BY SECRETARY KISSINGER.
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